Constitution of NDC sub-Committees

1980. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister on the conclusion of two days' National Development Council meet decided to constitute two NDC Sub-Committees on farming and State debts to devise ways to give a fillip to the overall economic growth;

(b) if so, whether these two Sub-Committees were Constituted under the Chairmenship of Agriculture and Finance Minister;

(c) if so, whether these two Committees would submit their report in a very short time and after receiving reports, the Planning Commission would include them in the approach paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details of the reports made by these two groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The NDC agreed to form a Sub-Committee under Minister of Agriculture for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. It was also decided that a Committee will be set up separately under the Finance Minister to examine relevant issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstanding against the National Small Saving Fund (NSSF).

(c) The Committees will be requested to submit their reports in time for the next meeting of the NDC. The reports of these two Committees will be considered at the time of 11th Five Year Plan.

(d) Does not arise.

Meeting of NDC

†1981. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of National Development Council was held on 27th and 28th June in Vigyan Bhavan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the issue discussed in the meeting;

(c) the recommendation made to be implemented in future; and

(d) the steps Government would take to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The National Development Council met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 27th and 28th June, 2005 to consider the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan and took the following decisons:

1. The NDC expressed broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid-Term Appraisal which could act as a blue print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan and as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission was directed to examine a number of valuable suggestions made by Chief Ministers during the course of discussions which require a review of some of the policies, programmes and approaches.

2. The NDC took note of the concern expressed by the Chief Ministers about issues relating to State finances, particularly the effects of the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the level of permissible market borrowings and interest costs on borrowings as also issues relating to mineral royalties and externally aided projects. It was decided to set up a Committee separately under the Finance Minister to examine relevant issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstandings against the Natioal Small Saving Fund (NSSF).

3. Recognizing the fact that agriculture and irrigation have been a common theme in the interventions of the Chief Ministers, and that rejuvenating the agricultural credit system, providing some measure of relief to farmers, improving the quality of our extension work, attending to the specific needs and problems of dry lands and wastelands and enhancing investments in irrigation have emerged as common concerns, the NDC agreed to form a Sub-Committee for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. The NDC Sub-Committee is expected to submit its report

within the next six months for inclusion in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

4. On the Employment Gurantee Act, the suggestions that payment of wages should be mostly in cash since there were problems in movement of food grains to backward areas and that being the self-targeting programme, the Employment Guarantee should cover non-BPL families were noted by the NDC, and it was directed to consider them for inclusion in the final draft of the National Employment Guarantee Bill.

5. To look into the need for providing adequate flexibility in the design of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Rural Health Mission and Bharat Nirman etc., to take account of state level realities and priorities, as well as the feasibility of their transfer to States/UTs or amalgamation into four or five broad heads with the freedom to develop locally relevant programmes, the NDC directed the Planning Commission to consider setting up an Expert Group to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

6. Recognizing that improvement in physical infrastructure has also emerged as a common priority and increased private participation has now become a necessity to mobilize the resources needed to achieve its expansion and upgradation, the NDC observed that successful promotion of private participation in infrastructure requires a well-designed framework of policies in which investors have the assurance that standards of services will be maintained and concessions will be transparently awarded and directed the Central Government to work towards evolving such a framework, which could be adopted by the States.

7. The Planning Commission was directed to begin work on the Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan with a view to submit it for National Development Council's approval by the end of December, 2005.

(d) Steps have already been initiated on the decisions/directions concerning Planning Commission. Besides, Planning Commission has also circulated the decisions/directions of the National Development Council

to all Central Ministries/Departments as well as State Governments/UTs Administrations for taking action as deemed necessary.

Energy Coordination Committee

1982. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has formed an Energy Coordination Committee (ECC);

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the members of the Committee; and

(d) in what manner the Committee would help in more efficient energy management in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) A copy of the notification on constitution of the Energy Coordination Committee is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Copy of notification on constitution of the Energy Coordination Committee

No. 210/3/C/1/2005-E&S-I
Government of India
(Bharat Sarkar)
Prime Minister's Office
(Pradhan Mantri Karyalaya)
New Delhi

Dated: 13-07-2005

NOTIFICATION

Sub: *Constitution of the Energy Coordination Committee*

Government has decided to constitute an Energy Coordination Committee to enable a systematic approach to policy formulation, promote coordination in inter-Departmental action and function as a key mechanism for providing institutional support to decision making in the area of energy planning and security.